

6 December 2017

Dear Friends of the Danish Festival Softball Tournament,

We would like to thank you for participating in the Danish Festival Softball Tournament. For those planning ahead, **Save The Date: August 17-19, 2018**. We hope you continue to keep the Danish Festival Softball Tournament on your calendars.

We are reaching out to you at this time to inform you of the changes the Danish Festival Softball Board intends to impose for the 2018 tournament. We receive many suggestions throughout the year. While some are certainly better than others, we take each one seriously and strive to meet the needs of the softball community. We know many of you are already starting to plan your tournament calendar for the year. We wanted to make sure you had the information in advance so you may plan accordingly. It is our belief these changes will benefit everyone, making it a more competitive for a broader range of teams.

The changes for the 2018 Danish Festival Softball Tournament are as follows:

Men's Division

- **The Men's division will be divided into two separate tournaments.** The tournament remains as an ASA D/NSA Gold and below tournament but the teams fitting that criteria will be divided into two divisions:
 - Upper Division – D & Below
 - Lower Division – Rec Division
- Danish Festival Softball Board will determine team placement based on several factors, including but not limited to:
 - ASA/NSA Player Classification
 - Previous tournament performance

Benefits:

- Allows lower classified teams to better compete in the tournament. The number of teams in the ASA E/NSA Silver range has continued to decrease throughout the years; we believe it is because those teams find it difficult to truly *compete* in the tournament. Since many of our local teams are within this classification, we feel obligated to do something to encourage our local teams to compete in the annual tradition of the Danish Festival Softball Tournament.
- Allows the Board more flexibility when determining eligibility of players and teams.
- Improves safety of the players.
- Each division will compete for their own set of awards therefore it increases chances to earn a coveted Danish Festival Softball Tournament trophy and t-shirt.

Women's Division

- The Women's Division is canceled. If demand increases in future years, it may be reinstated.

Co-Ed Division

- All Co-Ed games will be held at Alan G. Davis Park. All games will continue to be held on Sunday only.

Benefits:

- Male players will be permitted to use composite bats throughout the tournament. *(In previous year's men were not permitted to use composite bats at the GHS fields due to field size.)*
- More convenient for players competing in the Men's Division as well as the Co-ed Division.

Our goal is to continuously seek ways to better the tournament as demand and standards change. We feel these changes bring back the 'festival' feel to the tournament while maintaining high standards people have grown to expect from the tournament. Feel free to contact Kris Berry by phone or email if you have any questions or feedback, kberry@greenvillemi.org or 616.754.9163. Keep an eye on the mail and/or email in early June for your tournament registration packet. We hope to see you August 16-18th, 2018.

Respectfully,

Kristina Berry & The Danish Festival Softball Board
Director, Greenville Area Recreation & Community Center